

Tuberculin Skin Test--Results: Negative

1. What does a negative test result mean?

- It can mean that the person has not been infected with TB germs
- OR
- It can mean that the person was tested too soon after breathing in the germs. It takes a number of weeks after becoming infected by the germ for the body to react to the skin test. If this happens, the test will have to be repeated again after 3 months.
- It can mean that the person's body defenses are weakened and unable to react to the skin test, even though he/she is infected. When this happens, another type of test is given.

Sometimes, the person with a negative skin test may be given medicine to take as a preventive measure if he/she has spent or is spending a lot of time near someone with active TB.

2. Will the Mantoux PPD skin test have to be taken again?

A person will only need to take the PPD skin test again if exposed to someone with active TB, if the person develops symptoms of TB, or it is a requirement for school or employment.